



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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JOHN V. SCIPPA
 INTERIM COMMISSIONER

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May 22, 2025

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
 Fiscal Committee of the General Court
 State House
 Concord, NH 03301

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
 and the Honorable Council
 State House
 Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 106 Laws of 2023, class footnote¹ for accounting unit 82340000 *Medical-Dental*, the New Hampshire Department of Corrections (NHDOC) respectfully requests authorization of additional funding of \$555,000 for medical payments to providers to cover projected shortfalls for the remainder of state fiscal year 2025, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council approval through June 30, 2025. 100% General Funds.

Funding is to be budgeted in the accounts listed on the detailed exhibits as follows:

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¹ In the event that expenditures are greater than amounts appropriated, the Commissioner may request, with prior approval of the Fiscal Committee, that the Governor and Council authorize additional funding. Upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval, the Governor is authorized to draw a warrant from any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

02-46-46-465010-82340000 Medical - Dental				
Class	Description	FY 2025 Modified Budget	Requested Action	FY 2025 Revised Budget
010-500100	Personal Services - Permanent	\$ 5,447,755		\$ 5,447,755
011-500126	Personal Services - Unclassified	\$ 317,914		\$ 317,914
018-500106	Overtime	\$ 581,207		\$ 581,207
019-500105	Holiday Pay	\$ 181,010		\$ 181,010
020-500200	Current Expenses	\$ 285,976		\$ 285,976
022-500255	Rents - Leases Other than State	\$ 6,104		\$ 6,104
030-500331	Equipment New/Replacement	\$ 130,973		\$ 130,973
039-500188	Telecommunications	\$ 29,286		\$ 29,286
050-500109	Personal Service-Temp/Appointed	\$ 105,729		\$ 105,729
057-500531	Books Periodicals Subscriptions	\$ 199		\$ 199
060-500602	Benefits	\$ 3,450,686		\$ 3,450,686
070-500704	In State Travel Reimbursement	\$ 8,627		\$ 8,627
101-500729	Medical Payments to Providers	\$ 9,055,309	\$ 555,000	\$ 9,610,309
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	\$ 21,760		\$ 21,760
103-502664	Contracts for Operational Services	\$ 4,965		\$ 4,965
230-500765	Interpreter Services	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000
	Total	\$ 19,632,501	\$ 555,000	\$ 20,187,501
	REVENUES			
	Total General Funds	\$ 19,632,501	\$ 555,000	\$ 20,187,501

EXPLANATION

Class.101 *Medical Payments to Providers* has a projected shortfall of \$555,000 due to medical staff vacancies that are driving increased costs in medical services. These funds are sought to fulfill the Department's constitutional obligation under the case law standards from the 8th Amendment to meet the treatment needs of those in our care and custody.

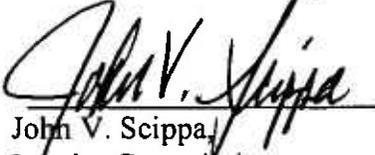
The Department has experienced challenges recruiting and retaining our medical staff, especially Registered Nurses. The current vacancy rate amongst nursing staff today is 14% agency wide, with an 18% vacancy rate at the New Hampshire State Prison for Men in Concord.

Nursing staff at the Department of Corrections are in the unique position of providing care to convicted felons in a dangerous environment, making it critically important that we maintain our safe staffing ratios and invest in comprehensive training and onboarding for new staff. Onboarding and hands on training is scheduled over 8 weeks or more. Additionally, civilian staff working inside the prison are required to attend five weeks of training at Police Standards and Training. The nurse's position hours must be replaced during these training periods to maintain the level of care required at each of our facilities. This is done primarily through temporary staffing. While temporary staffing meets our medical staffing needs, it is not as cost-effective as being able to fill

our own vacancies. The Department has been forced to turn to temporary staffing as a solution in addition to our own staff picking up overtime hours.

Our current Comprehensive Healthcare Contract vendor has been able to maintain medical and psychiatric provider staffing levels with a substantially low vacancy rate. While their billing of services is within the contract price limitations, it still demonstrates that we are spending significantly more in this area compared to previous years when positions were not always filled. These services, specifically having the filled positions, are critical in our overall success with providing around the clock access to medical and psychiatric care at all our NH DOC prison facilities. This includes dental care, sick visits, preventative care, specialized services and on call emergency coverage off hours.

Respectfully Submitted,



John V. Scippa
Interim Commissioner